



BLM EASTERN STATES

News Release

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Bureau of Land Management Requests Public Comments Prior to Analyzing Expressions of Interest for the Wayne National Forest

MILWAUKEE — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern States (ES) has received dozens of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from industry operators, indicating their desire to explore and possibly develop Federal minerals that underlie the surface acres of the Marietta Unit, Athens Ranger District, of the Wayne National Forest. Parcels of interest are located in the Washington County Townships of Liberty, Lawrence, Grandview, Independence, and Ludlow; and the Monroe County Townships of Green, Jackson, Lee, Perry, Benton, Washington and Wayne.

The BLM ES previously held public meetings in November 2015 to introduce the process for evaluating these EOIs and provide more detailed information to assist the public in providing substantive comments. Public comments were provided at these meetings, and others provided written comment after the public meetings. All comments previously provided will be considered, and it is not necessary to resubmit them.

We are now requesting additional public comments prior to analyzing the environmental effects of the EOIs under consideration. This comment period will close on January 22, 2016. Specific parcels of interest are identified on the BLM planning website. Search the map at https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do to locate these lands on the Wayne National Forest. Interested persons may also search the website under the project number: DOI-BLM-Eastern States-0030-2016-0002-EA.

Substantive comments may be provided via e-mail to: blm_es_comments@blm.gov, or mailed via postal service to:

BLM Northeastern States District
Attn: Kurt Wadzinski
626 E. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4617

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

After the comment period closes, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be conducted by a team of subject matter experts from the BLM in coordination with Wayne National Forest resource and technical specialists to consider the effects of leasing federal minerals. Upon completion of the EA, a formal 30-day public comment period will be provided before a final decision is made.

BLM

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.